

Appendix XXII

A P P E N D I X 3 . 7 . 5 .

GUIDELINES FOR THE SLAUGHTER OF
ANIMALS ~~FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION~~

Article 3.7.5.1.

General principles

1. Object

These guidelines address the need to ensure the welfare of food animals during pre-slaughter and slaughter processes, until they are dead.

These guidelines apply to the slaughter in slaughterhouses of the following ~~these~~ domestic animals ~~commonly slaughtered in slaughterhouses, that is:~~ cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats, deer, horses, pigs, ratites and poultry. Other animals, wherever they have been reared, and all animals slaughtered outside slaughterhouses should be managed to ensure that their transport, lairaging, restraint and slaughter is carried out without causing undue stress to the animals; the principles underpinning these guidelines apply also to these animals.

2. Personnel

Persons engaged in the unloading, moving, lairaging, care, restraining, stunning, slaughter and bleeding of animals play an important role in the welfare of those animals. For this reason, there should be a sufficient number of personnel, who should be patient, considerate, competent and familiar with the guidelines outlined in the present Appendix and their application within the national context.

Competence may be gained through formal training and/or practical experience. This competence should be demonstrated through a current certificate ~~from the Competent Authority or~~ from an independent body accredited by the *Competent Authority*.

The management of the slaughterhouse and the Veterinary Services should ensure that slaughterhouse staff are competent and carry out their tasks in accordance with the principles of animal welfare.

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3. Animal behaviour

Animal handlers should be experienced and competent in handling and moving farm livestock, and understand the behaviour patterns of animals and the underlying principles necessary to carry out their tasks.

The behaviour of individual animals or groups of animals will vary, depending on their breed, sex, temperament and age and the way in which they have been reared and handled. Despite these differences, the following behaviour patterns which are always present to some degree in domestic animals, should be taken into consideration in handling and moving the animals.

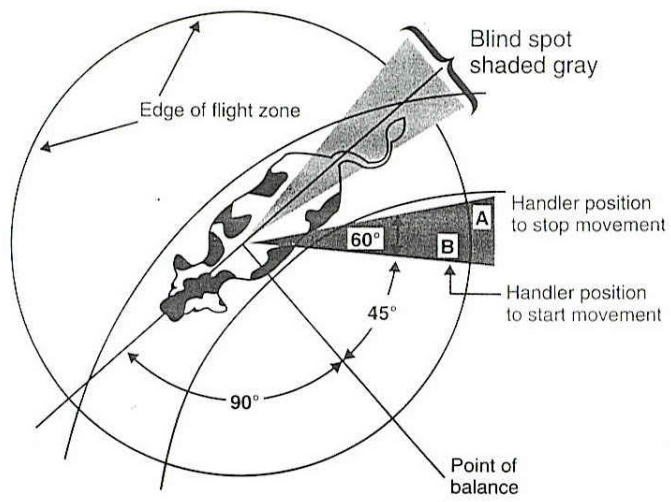
Most domestic livestock are kept in herds and follow a leader by instinct.

Animals which are likely to be hostile to each other in a group situation should not be mixed at slaughterhouses.

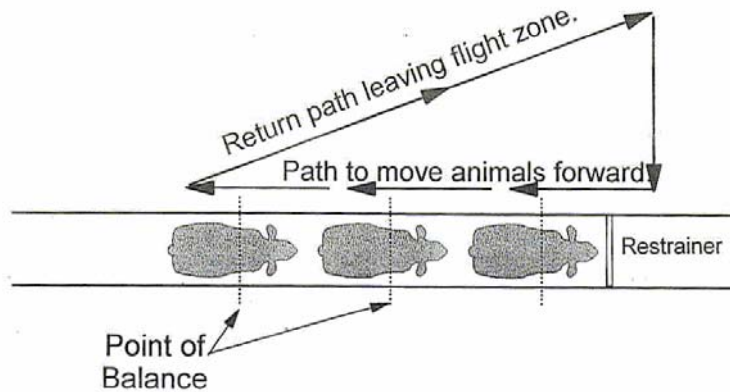
The desire of some animals to control their personal space should be taken into account in designing facilities.

Domestic animals will try to escape if an *animal handler* approaches closer than a certain distance. This critical distance, which defines the flight *zone*, varies among species and individuals of the same species, and depends upon previous contact with humans. Animals reared in close proximity to humans i.e. tame have ~~no~~ a small flight *zone*, whereas those kept in free range or extensive systems may have flight *zones* which may vary from one metre to many metres. Animal handlers should avoid sudden penetration of the flight *zone* which may cause a panic reaction which could lead to aggression or attempted escape.

An example of a flight zone (cattle)



Handler movement pattern to move cattle forward



Animal handlers should use the point of balance at an animal's shoulder to move animals, adopting a position behind the point of balance to move an animal forward and in front of the point of balance to move it backward.

Domestic animals have wide-angle vision but only have limited forward binocular vision and poor perception of depth. This means that they can detect objects and movements beside and behind them, but can only judge distances directly ahead.

Although all domestic animals have a highly sensitive sense of smell, they react in different ways to the smells of slaughterhouses. Smells which cause fear or other negative responses should be taken into consideration when managing animals.

Domestic animals can hear over a greater range of frequencies than humans and are more sensitive to higher frequencies. They tend to be alarmed by constant loud noise and by sudden noises, which may cause them to panic. Sensitivity to such noises should also be taken into account when handling animals.

4. Distractions and their removal

Distractions that may cause approaching animals to stop, baulk or turn back should be designed out from new facilities or removed from existing ones. Below are examples of common distractions and methods for eliminating them:

- a) reflections on shiny metal or wet floors - move a lamp or change lighting;
- b) dark entrances to chutes, races, stun boxes or conveyor restrainers - illuminate with indirect lighting which does not shine directly into the eyes of approaching animals;

- c) animals seeing moving people or equipment up ahead - install solid sides on chutes and races or install shields;

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- d) chains or other loose objects hanging in chutes or on fences - remove them;
- e) uneven floors or a sudden drop in floor levels at the entrance to conveyor restrainers – avoid uneven floor surfaces or install a solid false floor under the restrainer to provide an illusion of a solid and continuous walking surface;
- f) sounds of air hissing from pneumatic equipment - install silencers or use hydraulic equipment or vent high pressure to the external environment using flexible hosing;
- g) clanging and banging of metal objects - install rubber stops on gates and other devices to reduce metal to metal contact;
- h) air currents from fans or air curtains blowing into the face of animals - redirect or reposition equipment.

Article 3.7.5.2.

Moving and handling animals

1. General considerations

Animals should be transported to slaughter in a way that minimises adverse animal health and welfare outcomes, and the transport should be conducted in accordance with the OIE guidelines for the transportation of animals (Chapters 3.7.2 and 3.7.3).

The following principles should apply to unloading animals, moving them into lairage pens, out of the lairage pens and up to the slaughter point:

- a) The conditions of the animals should be assessed upon their arrival for any animal welfare and health problems.
- b) Injured or sick animals, requiring immediate slaughter, should be killed humanely, preferably at the site where they are found in accordance with the OIE guidelines for the killing of animals for disease control purposes (Chapter 3.7.6).
- c) The use of force on animals that have little or no room to move should not occur.
- d) The use of instruments which administer electric shocks (e.g. goads and prods) and their power output should be restricted to that necessary to assist movement of an ~~the~~ animals and only when an animal has a clear path ahead to move. If such use is necessary, it should be limited to the hindquarters of pigs and large ruminants, and never on sensitive areas such as the eyes, mouth, ears, anogenital region or belly.

Such instruments should not be used on horses, sheep and goats of any age, or on calves or piglets, nor on animals that have little or no room to move.

- e) Performance standards should be established in which numerical scoring is used to evaluate the use of such instruments, and to measure the percentage of animals moved with an electric instrument and the percentage of animals slipping or falling at a point in the slaughterhouse; the slaughterhouse should be investigated for faults in flooring, raceway design, lighting or handling, and these should be rectified to enable free movement of the animals without the need to use such instruments.

~~Performance standards should be established in which numerical scoring is used to evaluate the use of such instruments and to measure the percentage of animals moved with an electric instrument. In properly designed and constructed facilities with competent *animal handlers*, it should be possible to move 75% or more of the animals without the use of electric instruments.~~

- ~~f) Useful and permitted aids for moving animals include panels, flags, plastic paddles, flappers (a length of cane with a short strap of leather or canvas attached), plastic bags and metallic rattles; they should be used in a manner sufficient to encourage and direct movement of the animals but without physical contact with them. Aids for moving animals such as panels, flags, plastic paddles, flappers (a length of cane with a short strap of leather or canvas attached), plastic bags and metallic rattles should be used in a manner sufficient to encourage and direct movement of the animals.~~
- g) Shouting or yelling at animals or making loud noises e.g. through the cracking of whips to encourage them to move should not occur as such actions may make the animals agitated, leading to crowding or falling.
- h) Implements which cause pain and suffering such as large sticks, sticks with sharp ends, metal piping, fencing wire or heavy leather belts should not be used to move animals.
- i) Animals should be grasped or lifted in a manner which avoids pain or suffering and physical damage (e.g. bruising, fractures, dislocations). In the case of quadrupeds, manual lifting by a person should only be used in young animals or small species, and in a manner appropriate to the species; grasping or lifting such animals only by their wool, hair, feet, neck, ears or tails causing pain or suffering should not be permitted, except in an emergency where animal welfare or human safety may otherwise be compromised.
- j) Conscious animals should not be thrown or dragged.
- k) Animals should not be forced to move at a speed greater than their normal walking pace, in order to minimise injury through falling or slipping. Performance standards should be established where numerical scoring of the prevalence of animals slipping or falling is used to evaluate whether animal moving practices and/or facilities should be improved. In properly designed and constructed facilities with competent *animal handlers*, it should be possible to move 99% of animals without their falling.

- l) ~~Animal handlers should not force an animal to walk over the top of other animals. Animals for slaughter should not be forced to walk over the top of other animals.~~
- m) Animals should be handled in such a way as to avoid harm, distress or injury. Under no circumstances should *animal handlers* resort to violent acts to move animals, such as crushing or breaking animals' tails, grasping animals' eyes or pulling them by their ears. Animal handlers should never apply an injurious object or irritant substance to animals and especially not to sensitive areas such as eyes, mouth, ears, anogenital region or belly. The throwing or dropping of animals, or their lifting or dragging by body parts such as their tail, head, horns, ears, limbs, wool, hair or feathers, should not be permitted. The manual lifting of small animals is permissible.

2. Provisions relevant to animals delivered in containers

- a) Containers in which animals are transported should be handled with care, and should not be thrown, dropped or knocked over. Where possible, they should be loaded and unloaded horizontally and mechanically be horizontal while being loaded and unloaded mechanically, and stacked to ensure ventilation.
- b) Animals delivered in containers with perforated or flexible bottoms should be unloaded with particular care in order to avoid injury. Where appropriate, animals should be unloaded from the containers individually.
- c) Animals which have been transported in containers should be slaughtered as soon as possible; mammals and ratites which are not taken directly upon arrival to the place of slaughter should have drinking water available to them from appropriate facilities at all times. Delivery of poultry for slaughter should be scheduled such that they are not deprived of water at the premises for longer than 12 hours. Animals which have not been slaughtered within 12 hours of their arrival should be fed, and should subsequently be given moderate amounts of food at appropriate intervals.

3. Provisions relevant to restraining and containing animals

- a) Provisions relevant to restraining animals for stunning or slaughter without stunning, to help maintain animal welfare, include:
 - i) provision of a non-slip floor;
 - ii) avoidance of excessive pressure applied by restraining equipment that causes struggling or vocalisation in animals;
 - iii) equipment engineered to reduce noise of air hissing and clanging metal;
 - iv) absence of sharp edges in restraining equipment that would harm animals;

- v) avoidance of jerking or sudden movement of restraining device.
- b) Methods of restraint causing avoidable suffering, such as the following, should not be used in conscious animals because they cause severe pain and stress:
 - i) suspending or hoisting animals (other than poultry) by the feet or legs;
 - ii) indiscriminate and inappropriate use of stunning equipment;
 - iii) mechanical clamping of an animal's legs or feet (other than shackles used in poultry and ostriches) as the sole method of restraint;
 - iv) breaking legs, cutting leg tendons or blinding animals in order to immobilise them;
 - v) severing the spinal cord, for example using a puntilla or dagger, to immobilise animals using electric currents to immobilise animals, except for proper stunning.

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Article 3.7.5.4.

Care of animals in lairages

Animals in lairages should be cared for in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. As far as possible, established groups of animals should be kept together. Each animal should have enough space to stand up, lie down and turn around. Animals hostile to each other should be separated.
2. Where tethers, ties or individual stalls are used, they should allow animals to stand up and lie down without causing injury or distress.
3. Where bedding is provided, it should be maintained in a condition that minimises risks to the health and safety of the animals, and sufficient bedding should be used so that animals do not become soiled with manure.
4. Animals should be kept securely in the lairage, and care should be taken to prevent them from escaping and from predators.
5. Suitable drinking water should be available to the animals on their arrival and at all times to animals in lairages unless they are to be slaughtered without delay.

6. If animals are not to be slaughtered as soon as possible, suitable feed should be available to the animals on arrival and at intervals appropriate to the species. Unweaned animals should be slaughtered as soon as possible.
7. In order to prevent heat stress, animals subjected to high temperatures, particularly pigs and poultry, should be cooled by the use of water sprays, fans or other suitable means. However, the potential for water sprays to reduce the ability of animals to thermoregulate (especially poultry) should be considered in any decision to use water sprays. The risk of animals being exposed to very cold temperatures or sudden extreme temperature changes should also be considered.
8. The lairage area should be well lit in order to enable the animals to see clearly without being dazzled. During the night, the lights should be dimmed. Lighting should also be adequate to permit inspection of all animals. Subdued lighting, and for example, blue light may be useful in poultry lairages in helping to calm birds.
9. The condition and state of health of the animals in a lairage should be inspected at least every morning and evening by a veterinarian or, under the latter's responsibility, by another competent person. Animals which are sick, weak, injured or showing visible signs of distress should be separated, and treated or humanely killed immediately.
10. Lactating dairy animals should be slaughtered as soon as possible. Dairy animals with obvious udder distension should be milked to minimise udder discomfort.
11. Pregnant Animals giving which have given birth during the journey or in the lairage should be slaughtered as soon as possible or provided with conditions which are appropriate for suckling for its welfare and the welfare of the newborn. Under normal circumstances, animals which are expected to give birth during a journey should not be transported.
12. Animals with horns, antlers or tusks capable of injuring other animals, if aggressive, should be penned separately.

Recommendations for specific species are described in detail in Articles 3.7.5.5. to 3.7.5.8.

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